During totality the sky to visual observers was notably not dark, and no second magnitude star was seen with the naked eye. Mercury was a conspicuous object

The equatorial streamers were closely observed, and could be followed by the naked eye to 3 or $3\frac{1}{2}$ solar diameters; their structure was likened by Father Woodman to a structure of mother-o'-pearl, and this was generally conceded. Colour estimates, however, varied, and were given as "yellowish green tinge," "straw-coloured" or "golden." (It may be remarked here that the general description of the colour was given by the British observers in Spain and Portugal as "silvery-white.") Prof. Langley's visual telescopic observations gave, as he remarks, "little indication of the finely-divided structure of the inner corona which he had noticed at Pike's Peak. Structure, to be sure, was evident, but not in such minute subdivision as had then been seen; and though one remarkable prominence, as well as several smaller ones, was visible, the coronal streamers did not give to the writer the impression of being connected with these prominences, though the relationship of some of them to the solar poles was abundantly manifest."

The approximate length of totality as observed was 88 seconds, or 4 seconds shorter than the duration as given by the *Nautical Almanac*.

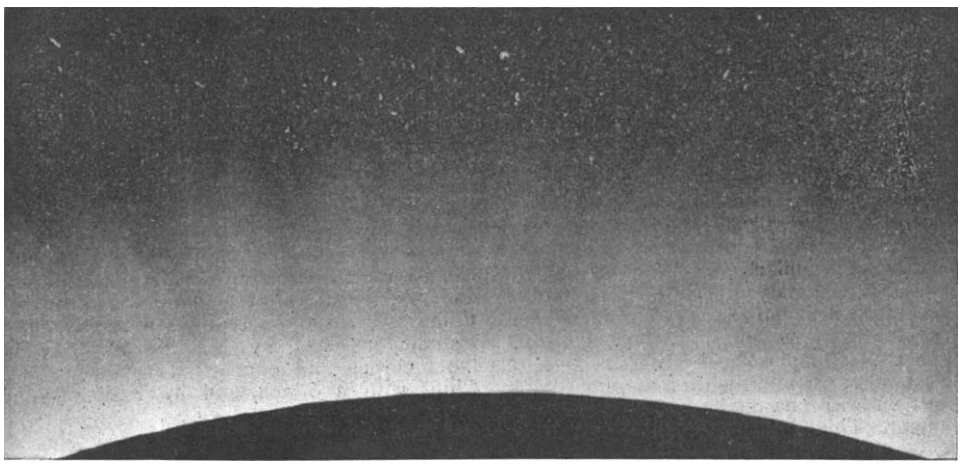

FIG. 3.—North polar coronal region. Taken with a 12-inch lens of 135 feet focal length. Exposure 16 seconds. (Natural size of original photograph. Moon 15 inches diam.)

With regard to the photographs which were found to have been successfully exposed, but of which only a few have as yet been developed, most interesting results will be obtained. During totality six plates were exposed for periods ranging from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 16 seconds, and three others immediately after third contact; these were all secured by the large 135-foot telescope. We are fortunately able to illustrate two portions (natural size) of the large 15-inch disc. Fig. 2 shows one of the principal prominences with the lower filaments near it (exposure 8 seconds), while Fig. 3 is another portion of the north polar region, with a 16 seconds' exposure. The part near the sun has been intentionally over-exposed, to show more clearly the outer portions of the polar structure, which extended to 6 minutes from the sun. The wealth of detail and imposing magnitude of the scale on which these pictures are taken will no doubt give us much needed information about the structure of the corona just above the chromosphere.

The measurement of the heat of the corona appears to have been successfully performed by Mr. Abbot, with the aid of Mr. Mendenhall, and this is probably the first time that it has really been shown to exist. The important result was that the corona gave a positive indication of heat as compared with the moon; this heat though certain, was, we are told, too slight to be subdivided by the dispersion of the prism with the means at hand.

With regard to the negatives depicting the outer corona, these show the extensions reaching to from 3 to 4 solar diameters for the longest streamers.

The plates taken for a search for intramercurial planets have not been carefully examined, but the considerable sky illumination during totality leads Prof. Langley to doubt the possibility of having recorded the images of such faint objects on the plates. Pleione (6·3 magnitude) in the Pleiades, and some fainter stars are, however, recorded on one of the plates.

The expedition seems to have gathered some most valuable data, and to have scored a decided success in every respect; the observations made and the photographs secured promise to be very satisfactory, especially with regard to the primary objects of the expedition.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND ITS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE.

IT will be remembered that the Board of Education Act, which received the Royal Assent last year, contained in Section 4 the following provision:

"It shall be lawful for Her Majesty in Council by Order to establish a Consultative Committee, consisting, as to not less than two-thirds, of persons qualified to represent the views of universities and other bodies interested in education, for the purpose of:—

(*a*) framing, with the approval of the Board of Education, regulations for a register of teachers which shall be formed and kept in manner to be provided by the Order in Council; provided that the register so formed shall contain the names of the registered teachers arranged in alphabetical order, with an entry in respect of each teacher showing the date of his registration, and giving a brief record of his qualifications and experience; and

(*b*) advising the Board of Education on any matter referred to the committee by the Board."

The Order in Council nominating the members of the proposed committee and defining its course of procedure, has just been issued, and is a document of considerable public interest and importance. Advisory Boards are not unknown in other departments of the public service, *e.g.* in the India Board and at the Admiralty; but a permanent Consultative Committee of unofficial experts, on the scale and with the powers contemplated in the present Order in Council, is a

novelty in administration; and the working of the new experiment will necessarily be watched with much solicitude by all persons who have at heart the improvement and development of our system of public education.

The following are the names of the eighteen persons who are nominated as the first members of the Consultative Committee :—

Right Hon. Arthur Herbert Dyke Acland.
Sir William Reynell Anson, Bart., M.P.
Professor Henry Armstrong.
Mrs. Sophie Bryant.
Right Hon. Sir William Hart-Dyke, Bart., M.P.
Sir Michael Foster, K.C.B., M.P.
Mr. James Gow, Litt.D.
Mr. Ernest Gray, M.P.
Mr. Henry Hobhouse, M.P.
Mr. Arthur Charles Humphreys-Owen, M.P.
Sir Richard Claverhouse Jebb, M.P.
Hon. and Rev. Edward Lyttelton.
Very Rev. Edward Craig Maclure, D.D., Dean of Manchester.
Miss Lydia Manley.
The Ven Ernest Grey Sandford, Archdeacon of Exeter.
Mrs. Eleanor Mildred Sidgwick.
Professor Bertram Coghill Alan Windle, M.D.
Rev. David James Waller, D.D.

It will be noticed that with the exception of the two former Vice-presidents of the Council, and of Mr. Hobhouse, all the persons named in this list may be regarded as representatives of "bodies interested in education." Oxford, Cambridge and London are most appropriately represented by their respective Members of Parliament; two of the proposed members are head-masters of public schools, one has been a teacher in a public elementary school, one is a High School mistress, another lady is the head of Newnham College, a third is the mistress of a training college for school-mistresses, and may also be reckoned as a representative of the British and Foreign School Society. Science and technology have their advocates in Prof. Armstrong and Sir Michael Foster; the Established Church and the National Schools are represented by Archdeacon Sandford the Roman Catholics by Prof. Windle, and the Nonconformists by Dr. Waller, Wales and the Welsh Intermediate Schools by Mr. Humphreys-Owen, and the School Boards of England by Dean Maclure, the chairman of the Manchester School Board. There can be no doubt that an excellent selection of names, typical of various classes, and likely to command the public confidence, has been made by the Lord President and his advisers.

Nevertheless, it was generally hoped and expected that, while two-thirds of the number were very rightly and in fulfilment of the express intentions of the Act to be composed of persons able to express the views of different academic and professional bodies, the remaining third would consist of persons detached from sectional interests, and specially qualified by breadth of view, by large acquaintance with schools and institutions of various classes, both here and in foreign countries, and by a disinterested concern for the interests of national education as a whole, to render service in consultation with the Board of Education. No such proportion has, however, been observed in the composition of this committee. Like some recent Royal Commissions, to which have been entrusted duties especially demanding wide knowledge and judicial impartiality, the chief ingredients in the committee are advocates and partisans specially charged to look after the interests of particular institutions, creeds, or professional bodies. It appears to be assumed that the resultant of all these opposing forces will be a satisfactory conclusion. But when it is considered that one of the first duties of the committee will be to determine the conditions on which teachers shall be admitted to the official register, and that it will be the task of that committee to determine the kind of qualification which should be recognised, and the relative claims of a great number of different institutions, both public and private. it becomes evident that the list of the proposed committee is seriously incomplete. One of the most important questions which will in due course inevitably demand its attention is the examination and inspection of secondary schools, and it is quite conceivable that on this point professional interests may not prove to be precisely identical with the public interests. It may be hoped that attention will be given to these considerations before October, when the committee is for the first time to be summoned. It is indispensable that a body charged with such novel and weighty responsibilities should from the first command the full confidence of all those who are conscious of the defects in our present system, and who are concerned more with its due expansion and its fulfilment of high national ideals than with the conservation of any traditions and interests, however important and deserving of respect, which belong to particular classes or institutions.

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ACADEMIES.[1]

THE Academy will recall the fact that at the conclusion of the mission entrusted to M. Moissan and myself, consent was given to the "Projet de Statuts pour l'Association internationale des Académies," drawn up by the delegates of the nine Academies represented at the Conference held at Wiesbaden early in October last, at the invitation of the Academy of Berlin.

The International Association is now constituted; and it includes the eighteen following Academies :

1.	Academy of Sciences	*Amsterdam.*
2.	Prussian Academy of Sciences	*Berlin.*
3.	Academy of Sciences, Literature and the Fine Arts	*Brussels.*
4.	Hungarian Academy of Science ...	*Budapest.*
5.	Academy of Sciences	*Christiania.*
6.	Society of Sciences	*Göttingen.*
7.	Academy of Sciences of Denmark ...	*Copenhagen.*
8.	Academy of Sciences of Saxony ...	*Leipzig.*
9.	Royal Society	*London.*
10.	Academy of Sciences of Bavaria ...	*Munich.*
11.	Academy of Inscriptions and Literature	*Paris.*
12.	Academy of Sciences	*Paris.*
13.	Academy of Moral and Political Sciences	*Paris.*
14.	Academy of Sciences	*St. Petersburg.*
15.	Academy dei Lincei	*Rome.*
16.	Swedish Academy of Sciences	*Stockholm.*
17.	Academy of Sciences	*Washington.*
18.	Academy of Sciences	*Vienna.*

Amongst the Academies invited to join, one only, the Royal Academy of History of Madrid, has as yet not replied to the request of the Wiesbaden Conference.

The provisional rules take into consideration the possibility of the addition of other learned societies, and in § 2 the conditions and formalities are indicated which will be necessary for the admission of a new Academy.

The Association comprises two Sections, the Section of Literature and the Section of Science. The work will be carried out by general meeting and committee. In principle, the general meeting will be held every three years, and each Academy will send as many delegates as it may deem necessary, but each Academy will have only one vote, which should be given by one of the members of the delegation.

In the interval between two general meetings, the Association is represented by the committee, each

[1] Translation of a report made to the Paris Academy of Sciences on July 2, by M. Darboun, permanent secretary of the Academy.